

Resolution Number: 30168

A RESOLUTION Relating to the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), recognizing the approval and signing of the HCP and issuance of an incidental take permit by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of City of Seattle staff over the past six years to make federal approval of the HCP a reality; and recognizing the official end of the HCP development and approval phase and the beginning of the HCP implementation phase focused on leaving a lasting legacy for fish, wildlife and people.

Date introduced/referred: Apr 24, 2000

Date adopted:

Status: Adopted

Vote: 8-0 (Excused: Pageler)

Committee: Full Council

Sponsor: PAGELER

Index Terms: EXPRESSING-APPRECIATION, CEDAR-RIVER, WATERSHEDS, ENVIRONMENTAL-PROTECTION

Text

Note to users: {- indicates start of text that has been amended out

-} indicates end of text that has been amended out

{+ indicates start of text that has been amended in

+} indicates end of text that has been amended in

A RESOLUTION, relating to the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), recognizing the approval and signing of the HCP and issuance of an incidental take permit by the federal government under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of City of Seattle staff over the past six years to make federal approval of the HCP a reality; and recognizing the official end of the HCP development and approval phase and the beginning of the HCP implementation phase focused on leaving a lasting legacy for fish, wildlife and people.

WHEREAS, the Cedar River Municipal Watershed has been the primary source of water supply for the City of Seattle and neighboring communities for almost one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, throughout this one hundred year period the City has followed a policy of acquiring ownership of lands within the watershed to enhance control of human activities and protect the high quality of the water -- presently owning 90,500 acres, or virtually all of the land upstream of its water supply intake facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Cedar River Municipal Watershed and lower Cedar River are home to many species of fish and wildlife, some of which are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act; and

Resolution Number 30168.txt

WHEREAS, in 1994 the City initiated negotiations with Federal and State Agencies on a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that would establish the City's long-term commitments regarding watershed habitat protection and restoration and mitigation for impacts resulting from the presence and operation of certain City-owned facilities, all in exchange for certain releases and settlement of various water resource management issues with the other parties; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the City reached Agreement in Principle with five Federal and State agencies on major terms of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Cedar River Municipal Watershed and after public review and other analyses the City Council directed preparation of a draft HCP and supporting documents based on the Agreement and guided by goals established by the Council in Resolution 29657; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted more than 100 meetings, presentations, field trips, held four public workshops and three public hearings and received hundreds of written comments on the draft and final versions of its HCP, environmental documents and technical appendices and then carefully considered the information provided and comments expressed and made changes as necessary; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 1999, the City Council, with the Mayor concurring, adopted Resolution 29977 directing preparation of a Final Cedar River Watershed HCP and other related documents necessary to obtain an incidental take permit from the federal government under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the Final HCP and related agreements; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2000, the Mayor and federal officials signed the Final HCP and the City of Seattle received an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) concluding the HCP development and approval phase and beginning the HCP implementation phase; and

WHEREAS, the Cedar River Watershed HCP will enable the City to maintain the availability and quality of the region's primary water supply, meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, and resolve related issues with the State and Federal Governments; and

WHEREAS, the final HCP represents the culmination of more than fourteen years of collaborative study and six years of negotiation to develop a comprehensive, scientifically-based plan to restore the diverse ecosystems of the Cedar River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the HCP is a national model for large-scale watershed protection and restoration that will leave a lasting legacy for fish, wildlife and people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:

Section 1. The recognition of City staff who have worked hard over the past six years to make a federally approved HCP a reality is long overdue. The City Council would therefore like to recognize the following work and contributions:

- a) For their vision, persistence, perseverance, and dedication towards making the HCP happen over the long haul recognition goes to Seattle Public Utilities' HCP leads Suzanne Flagor and Jim Erckmann.**
- b) For their leadership through the long and arduous process of HCP Negotiations recognition goes to: SPU's Director Diana Gale, Mayor's Office staff Maud Daudon and Ray Hoffman, one exhausted City Attorney - Sharon Metcalf, Office of Intergovernmental Relations staff including David Conrad and Steve Johnson, and ESA team leader Martin Baker.**
- c) For their expertise and commitment to making the Cedar River Watershed HCP a comprehensive, collaborative, environmentally sound and scientifically-based plan for fish, wildlife and people recognition goes to: SPU scientific leads George Schneider, Rand Little and Keith Kurko; SPU environmental document lead Jim Freeman and other utility key staff including Alan Chinn, Bruce Bachen, Dwayne Paige, Jim Kapusinski, Bill Belknap, Tom Van Buren, Dave Beedle, Stan Pasin, Lee Boeckstiegel, and Marti Spencer; and to City Council Central Staff member Cathy Baker.**
- d) For their efforts to develop HCP Financing and Implementation Plans recognition goes to SPU staff Nick Pealy, Jerry Allen and Linda DeBoldt respectively; and for communicating HCP issues effect to the public, thank you's go to Lisa Fitzhugh, Matt Lincecue and Dick Lilly.**
- e) For their commitments that have borne fruit after they have moved on to other endeavors, thanks to former Mayor Norm Rice, former Concilmembers Jane Noland and Sue Donaldson, former OIR staff Bridgett Chandler, former Water Department staff Tom Spring, and former Legislative Aide Peter Clarke.**
- f) For unselfishly and enthusiastically taking on whatever HCP task was handed them recognition goes to the 100-plus City staff from SPU and other departments that at one point or another made significant contributions towards development of the Cedar River Watershed HCP.**

Section 2. The thoughtful involvement of a host of citizens and community organizations is gratefully acknowledged.

Section 3. The Director of Seattle Public Utilities is directed to begin implementation of the Cedar River Watershed HCP.

Adopted by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2000 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2000.

President of the City Council

Filed by me this _____ - day of _____, 2000.

City Clerk
HCPRes.doc
4/20/00
v.1